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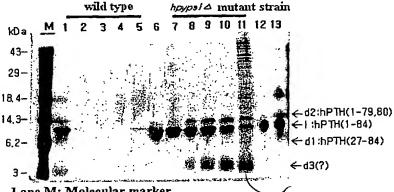
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(54) Title: HANSENULA POLYMORPHA YAPSIN DEFICIENT MUTANT STRAIN AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARA-TION OF RECOMBINANT PROTEINS USING THE SAME



Lane M: Molecular marker

1: wild type, o-h reaction

2: wild type, 2-h reaction

3: wild type, 4-h reaction

4: wild type, 6-h reaction 5: wild type, 24-h reaction

6: distilled water + hPTH,

o-h reaction

7: mutant strain, o-h reaction

8: mutant strain, 2-h reaction

9: mutant strain, 4-h reaction

10: mutant strain, 6-h reaction

11: mutant strain, 24-b reaction

12: hPTH 100 ng

13: hPTH 200 ng

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to polynucleotide containing HpYPS1 gene coding Hansenula polymorpha vapsin1; polypeptide coded thereby; Hansenula polymorpha mutant wherein yapsin activity is reduced by the mutation of the HpYPS1 gene coding Hansenula polymorpha yapsin1; recombinant Hansenula polymorpha strain expressing a foreign protein prepared by introducing a gene coding a foreign protein to the Hansenula polymorpha mutant; and a method for preparing a foreign protein comprising the steps of culturing the recombinant Hansenula polymorpha strain under the condition that the foreign protein can be expressed, and isolating the foreign protein from the obtained culture broth.



Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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HANSENULA POLYMORPHA YAPSIN DEFICIENT MUTANT STRAIN AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF RECOMBINANT PROTEINS USING THE SAME

5 Technical Field

The present invention relates to a process for producing a recombinant protein secreted and expressed from methanol-utilizing *Hansenula polymorpha* yeast at a high yield by efficiently preventing decomposition of the recombinant protein.

More preferably, it relates to a process for efficiently producing a recombinant protein by destroying yapsin1 gene of *H. polymorpha* strain to prevent decomposition of the protein containing a basic or dibasic amino acid residue produced in *H. polymorpha*.

More particularly, it relates to a process for producing a recombinant protein in an intact configuration at a high yield in *H*, *polymorpha* by preventing decomposition of the recombinant protein having a basic or dibasic amino acid residue in the protein, such as human parathyroid hormone, human serum albumin and serum albumin fusion protein, which comprises cloning the *HpYPS1* gene encoding *Hansenula polymorpha* aspartic protease type yapsin1, preparing a *H. polymorpha* strain with the defective *HpYPS1* gene using the cloned gene and culturing a transformant transformed from the strain as a host.

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Background Art

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Recently, as demand for high-purity protein medicaments is suddenly increased due to increase of incurable diseases and improvement of public medical standard, relative importance of medicinal recombinant proteins in the health-related bioengineering field is highly raised.

Therefore, the frequency of use of yeast which is a monocellular eukaryotic microorganism as a host system for mass-production of a recombinant protein is gradually increased. Particularly, since yeast has the protein secretion route very similar to those of higher animal cells, it is habitually used as a microorganism host system for production of human-derived secretion proteins. Also, since most kinds of yeast normally secret a very small number of proteins out of the cell, advantageously, recombinant proteins secreted from yeast can be readily recovered and purified. In recent, mass-production of serum proteins, vaccines and other various important medical proteins using non-traditional yeasts including *Hansenula polymorpha* and *Pichia pastoris*, other than the traditional yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* has been successively conducted (Gellissen G, Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol. 54, 741 (2000)).

As a eukaryotic microorganism, yeast secretes proteins by the substantially same method with mammal cells and involves similar protein modification and cleavage procedures. A protein which has undergone the secretion route becomes to have its final 3-dimensional structure at the Endoplasmic reticulum. In case of glycoprotein, N- and O-

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bonding sugar chains are attached thereto. Subsequently, the protein is transferred to the Golgi apparatus, in which it is further subjected to the protein modification procedures such as trimming of oligosaccharide or protein cleavage, and thereafter, is transferred to different organs, inserted into components of the cell membrane or secreted out of the cell.

As described above, since the protein secretion procedures in yeast involve various kinds of post-translational modification processes, the secretion and production of a foreign protein in yeast may cause many problems. Particularly, when a recombinant protein is secreted and produced in yeast, it is necessary to use an efficient expression and secretion system in order to increase productivity, but is also important to prevent decomposition of the produced and secreted foreign protein. If a recombinant yeast is cultured for a long period of time at a high concentration in a fermenter, proteases which are naturally secreted from the host cell or exist in the cell through cell lysis are released to medium and degrade the produced recombinant proteins, thereby causing reduction in overall productivity of the recombinant proteins. In order to solve this problem, for yeasts including Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Hansenula polymorpha, Pichia pastoris and the like, which have been used as recombinant protein expression systems, various protease deficient strains have been developed. Primarily, strains, in which PEP4, PRBI. or CPY genes encoding degradative enzymes existing in yeast vacuole are destroyed (Alvarez et al., J. Biotechnol. 38, 81 (1994); Chen et al., Curr. Genet. 27, 201 (1995); Gleeson et al., Methods Mol. Biol. 103, 81 (1998); Kang et al. In Hansenula polymorpha (ed. Gellissen G) p.124 (2001)), have been developed. In addition to the vacuole



degradative enzymes, $kex1 \triangle$ strain have been developed, in which KEXI gene encoding carboxypeptidase α existing in the Golgi apparatus is destroyed. By the $kex1 \triangle$ strain, C-end decomposition of hirudin in Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Hinnen et al., In Gene expression in recombinant microorganisms (ed. Smith A.), p121 (1995)), of human epidermal growth factor in Hansenula polymorpha (Heo et al., Protein expr. purif. 24, 117 (2001)) and of rodent or human endostatin in Pichia pastoris (Boehm et al., Yeast 15, 563-567 (1999)) can be significantly reduced.

Recently, yeast aspartic protease type yapsins having activity to recognize and cut basic amino acids existing as a single or a pair in Saccharomyces cerevisiae have been identified, which are novel proteases existing in the cell membrane (Egel-Mitani et al., Yeast 6, 127-137 (1990)). Yapsin1 (also previously known as yeast aspartic protease 3(YAP3)) was firstly known to the public among the yeast aspartic proteases, and yapsin2 (also previously known as MKC7) was known thereafter (Komano and Fuller, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 7, 92,10752-10756 (1995)). By the Saccharomyces cerevisiae genome information which has been recently disclosed to the public, additional genes encoding at least 5 yapsin type protease presumed to have similar functions, such as yapsin3, yapsin6 and yapsin7, have been reported to exist so far (Olsen et al. Biochem. J. 339, 407-411 (1999)). Though the physiological functions of these yapsins are not clearly shown, as the number of study cases reporting that target recombinant proteins which are intended to secret and produce in S. cerevisiae are cleaved by the protease activity of yapsin is increased, yapsin deficient yeast strains attract public attention as an

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useful strain for production of a recombinant protein, particularly a foreign peptide having a basic amino acid. Recombinant proteins which have been reported to have problems of being cleaved by yapsins in secretion and production in S. cerevisiae, till now, include human serum albumin (Kerry-williams et al., Yeast 14, 161-169 (1998)), human parathyroid hormone (Kang et al., Appl Microgiol Biotechnol., 50, 187-192 (1998)); Korean Patent Registration No. 0246932 (publicated on December 8, 1999)), insect diuretic hormone (Copley et al., Biochem J., 330, 1333-1340 (1998)), glucagon and glucagon-like peptide (Egel-Mitani et al., Enzyme Microb Technol. 26, 671-677 (2000): USA PAT. NO. 6,110,703) and human elafin precursor (Bourbonnais et al., Protein Exp. Purif. 20, 485 (2000)). Meanwhile, considering that YPS1 deficient S. cerevisiae strain shows a considerable progress in decomposition of hPTH at the last stage of the cultivation using a fermenter, the present inventors have developed S. cerevisiae yapsin multiple deficient mutant strain (yps1 \(\Delta \text{/yps2} \(\Delta \text{/yps3} \(\Delta \text{)}, \) in which the YPS2 and YPS3 genes coding for yapsin2 and yapsin3 are removed. As a result, we have obtained an excellent result of preventing 90% or more of degradation of human parathyroid hormone observed in a high-concentration cultivation (Korean Patent Application No. 2000-51267 and International Application No. PCT/KR01/01447).

H. polymorpha, one of methanol-utilizing yeasts, is in the spotlight as a very useful yeast host for mass production of recombinant proteins since it has advantages in that strong and controllable promoters are developed, alike *Pichia pastoris*, and a foreign gene can be multiply introduced into the host chromosome (Faber et al., Yeast 11,

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1331(1995)). Up to date, various kinds of foreign proteins have been expressed and the expression levels often reached over 1 g/L in case of high-concentration cultivation using a fermenter. Particularly, it has been reported that when recombinant phytase is secreted and produced, the expression level is about 13.5 g/L (Mayer et al., Biotechnol. Bioeng. 63, 373-381 (1999)). Therefore, the H. polymorpha expression system becomes distinguished as one of the most potential systems among several presently available eukaryotic cell expression systems. Especially, since some of the recombinant proteins which have been produced in the initial stage in H. polymorpha have already passed clinical trials and are on the market (ex., hepatitis B vaccine) or in the product development phase(ex., hirudin), H. polymorpha is considered as a suitable expression system for production of a recombinant protein to be developed as an medicament (Gellissen G., Appl Microbiol Biotechnol. 54 741-750 (2000)). Also, as recently getting into the post-genome era, there is an increased need for a high-efficiency expression system for functional analysis of novel genes, and thus it is expected that an expression system using H. polymorpha would bear a great part in functional and structural analysis of novel proteins as well as mass production of useful proteins derived from higher eukaryotic cells.

Disclosure of Invention

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Therefore, the present invention has been made to develop a high-efficiency H.

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polymorpha expression system by solving the problems related to undesired cleavage and decomposition of a recombinant protein by an yapsin type protease, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a technology for secreting and producing a recombinant protein in an intact configuration at a high efficiency by preventing cleavage and decomposition of the recombinant protein expressed in *H. polymorpha*, in which the *HpYPS1* gene encoding *H. polymorpha* yapsin1 is cloned, the cloned gene is used to prepare *HpYPS1* gene deficient mutant strain and the prepared mutant strain is used as a recombinant protein expression host.

In accordance with an aspect, the present invention provides a gene sequence encoding yapsin1(HpYPSI) of H. polymorpha strain by probing yapsin protease genes in Hansenula polymorpha strain, as identified in S. cerevisiae.

Also, in further aspect, the present invention provides a yapsin1 polypeptide having *Hansenula polymorpha* strain-derived aspartic protease activity.

Also, in another aspect, the present invention provides a secretion signal gene sequence and a peptide sequence of *HpYPS1* polypeptide for secretion of a foreign protein recombinantly produced in *Hansenula polymorpha* strain.

According to yet another aspect, in order to develop a Hansenula polymorpha strain capable of secreting and producing a recombinant protein in an original configuration at a high efficiency, the present invention provides an expression system for secretion and production of a recombinant protein at a high efficiency in Hansenula polymorpha by cloning the above-described Hansenula polymorpha yapsin protease gene

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and deleting the cloned gene to minimize the decomposition of the recombinant protein in Hansenula polymorpha.

In order to accomplish the above objects, the present inventors have developed a Hansenula polymorpha mutant strain (hpyps1\times), in which the HpYPS1 gene is deleted, by cloning the HpYPS1 gene encoding Hansenula polymorpha yapsin1 and subjected the resulting HpYPS1 gene to a functional analysis. Consequently, we have formed a method for increasing productivity of a recombinant protein by using the Hansenula polymorpha mutant strain as a host strain to express the protein containing a basic or dibasic amino acid residue in the protein, including human parathyroid hormone, human serum albumin and human serum albumin fusion protein, thereby significantly reducing the decomposition of the recombinant protein expressed and secreted in H. polymorpha.

Brief Description of Drawings

Further objects and advantages of the invention can be more fully understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 shows the nucleotide sequence of gene *HpYPS1* encoding *H.polymorpha* yapsin1 and the expected amino acid sequence (①: a signal sequence, ②: the expected GPI anchor, ③: a hydrophobic amino acid-golgi membrane fixing domain);

Fig. 2 shows the comparison of the amino acid sequence between H.polymorpha

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yapsin1 and S. cerevisiae yapsin type proteases;

Fig. 3 is the result of the functional complementation experiment showing that temperature sensitivity of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yapsin multiple deficient mutant strain is recovered as the *Hansenula polymorpha* yapsin1 gene *HpYPS1* is expressed;

Fig. 4 is a schematic view showing the procedures for preparing a *Hansenula* polymorpha yapsin1 gene -disrupted mutant strain hpyps1 \(\triangle \);

Fig. 5 shows the results of comparison of protease activity in the culture supernatants of the *H. polymorpha* wild type and the yapsin1-deficient *hpyps1* \(\triangle \) mutant strain, in which human parathyroid hormone is used as a substrate;

Fig. 6 shows a schematic view of the procedures to construct the human parathyroid hormone expression vector pMOXhPTH for *H. polymorpha*;

Fig. 7A shows the result of Southern blot to examine the expression vector insertion sites and the number of copies by isolating chromosomes of the *Hansenula* polymorpha wild type and the mutant strain hpyps1 \triansformed with the vector pMOXhPTH;

Fig. 7B shows the results of SDS-polyacrylamide electrophoresis of yeast culture supernatants, followed by staining, to compare the expression and decomposition aspects of recombinant human parathyroid hormone in the transformants of H.polymorpha wild type and $hpypsl \triangle$ mutant strain;

Fig. 8A shows the results of comparison of the expression and decomposition aspects of recombinant human serum albumin when the *H. polymorpha* wild type strain

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and the *HpYPS1* gene-deleted *hpyps1* △ mutant strain are used as a host, in which yeast culture supernatants are analyzed by SDS-polyacrylamide electrophoresis, followed by staining;

Fig. 8B shows the results of comparison of the expression and decomposition aspects of recombinant human serum albumin when the *H. polymorpha* wild type strain and the *HpYPSI* gene-deleted *hpyps1* \(\triangle mutant strain are used as a host, in which yeast culture supernatants are analyzed by Western blotting;

Fig. 9 shows a schematic view of the procedures for constructing the albumin-TIMP2 fusion protein expression vector pYHSA13-T2 for *Hansemula polymorpha*; and

Fig. 10 shows the results of the comparison of the expression and decgradation aspects of recombinant albumin-TIMP2 fusion protein when the *H.polymorpha* wild type strain and the *HpYPSI* gene-deleted *hpyps1* mutant strain are used as a host, in which yeast culture supernatants are analyzed by Western blotting. The Lane 1 represents the wild type transformant transformed with pYHSA12(+), the Lanes 2 to 5 represent the wild type transformant transformed with pYHSA13-TIMP2, the Lanes 6 to 9 represent the *hpyps1* mutant strain transformed with pYHSA13-TIMP2 and the Lane 10 represent isolated and purified albumin (200 ng).

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

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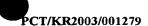
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H. polymorpha is a class of yeast which can use methanol as a carbon source

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and energy source. According to the present invention, there is provided a *H. polymorpha* mutant strain with yapsin enzyme destroyed, based on the fact that when *H. polymorpha* is used in a method for producing a foreign protein, the yield of the foreign protein is reduced since the produced foreign protein is decomposed by yapsin enzyme which is an aspartic protease existing in the yeast.

As described herein, the yapsin enzyme family, which is a sub-family of aspartic proteases, has an ability to specifically cleave a basic or dibasic amino acid residue of a protein. This is a difference from other aspartic proteases cleaving hydrophobic residues.

The present inventors have obtained a segment showing similarity with the S. cerevisiae yapsin1 encoding gene (YPSI) from the PCR-amplified chromosomes derived from H. polymorpha and conducted researches and studies on functions of the segment.

As a result, the segment was identified as *HpYPS1* gene of *H. polymorpha*. Further, we have prepared a *Hansenula polymorpha* mutant strain having the *HpYPS1* gene destroyed and confirmed that a foreign protein can be produced from the strain at a high yield. Thus, the present invention has been completed.

In one aspect, the present invention provides a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence shown in Fig. 1.

More particularly, the present invention provides a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence encoding *Hansenula polymorpha* yapsin1 shown in Fig. 1.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in Fig. 1.

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More particularly, the present invention provides a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of *Hansenula polymorpha* yapsin1(HpYPS1) shown in Fig. 1.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a secretion signal gene sequence and a peptide sequence of HpYPS1 polypeptide for secretion of a foreign protein recombinantly produced in *Hansenula polymorpha* strain, shown as ① in Fig. 1.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a *H. polymorpha* mutant strain having reduced yapsin activity by mutation of the *HpYPSI* gene encoding *H. polymorpha* yapsin1.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a recombinant *H.polymorpha* strain expressing a foreign protein by introducing a gene encoding the foreign protein into the *H. polymorpha* mutant strain.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a process for preparing a foreign protein comprising culturing a recombinant *H. polymorpha* strain under conditions to express the foreign protein and isolating the foreign protein from the culture.

More particularly, the present invention provides a process for secreting and producing a recombinant protein in Hansenula polymorpha using a yeast strain lacking the HpYPSI gene for a yapsin type protease as a host. The present invention comprises the steps of: cloning gene the HpYPSI encoding H. polymorpha protease yapsin1; functional analyzing the resulting H. polymorpha HpYPSI gene by temperature sensitivity complementation experiment of a Saccharomyces cerevisiae yapsin multiple deficient mutant strain; preparing a hpypsI Δ mutant strain with the HpYPSI gene

destroyed in Hansenula polymorpha, followed by analysis of yapsin activity; and preparing a recombinant Hansenula polymorpha strain hpyps 1 Δ-pMOXhPTH to express and secrete human parathyroid hormone, a recombinant Hansenula polymorpha strain hpyps I \(\Delta -pYHSA12 \) to express and secrete human serum albumin, or recombinant a Hansenula polymorpha strain hpyps1 Δ-pYHSA13-TIMP2 to express and secrete a TIMP2 protein fused with human serum albumin recombinant protein using the H.polymorpha mutant strain hpyps $I \Delta$ as a host, followed by analysis of decomposition level of the recombinant protein. Therefore, the present invention relates to a method for efficiently producing a recombinant protein by preventing degradation of the recombinant protein expressed from methanol utilizing yeast H. polymorpha, which comprises cloning the HpYPS1 gene encoding H. polymorpha aspartic protease type yapsin, preparing a H. polymorpha strain with the HpYPS1 gene deficient using the cloned gene, and culturing a transformant transformed from the strain as a host to minimize degradation of the recombinant protein, thereby producing the recombinant protein in an intact configuration at a high yield.

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The sequence of the *H. polymorpha YPS1* gene (*HpYPS1*) (SEQ ID NO: 1) cloned according to the present invention was deposited in GenBank under Accession No. AF493990. Also, the *HpYPS1* gene encoding *H. polymorpha* protease yapsin1 was deposited in an international depository authority (Korean Collection for Type Cultures) on the date of June 18, 2002 and assigned Accession No. KCTC 10285BP. Further, the *hpyps1* Δ mutant strain having the *HpYPS1* gene destroyed in *H. polymorpha* was

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deposited in an international depository authority (Korean Collection for Type Cultures) on the date of June 18, 2002 and assigned Accession No. KCTC 10281BP. In an embodiment, the recombinant *H*, polymorpha strain hpyps1 Δ-pMOXhPTH expressing and secreting human parathyroid hormone was deposited in an international depository authority (Korean Collection for Type Cultures) on the date of June 18, 2002 and assigned Accession No. KCTC 10282BP. In another embodiment, the recombinant *H*. polymorpha strain hpyps1 Δ-pYHSA12 expressing and secreting human serum albumin was also deposited in an international depository authority (Korean Collection for Type Cultures) on the date of June 18, 2002 and assigned Accession No. KCTC 10283BP. In addition, the recombinant *H*. polymorpha strain hpyps1 Δ-pYHSA13-T2 expressing and secreting albumin-TIMP2 fusion protein was deposited in an international depository authority on the date of June 23, 2003 and assigned Accession No. KCTC 10485BP.

Now, the present invention will be explained in detail by the following examples.

However, it should be understood that the following examples are only for illustrative purposes and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

<Example 1>

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Cloning of Hansenula polymorpha yapsin1 gene HpYPSI and analysis of the sequence

In order to find a gene encoding yapsin1 in *H. polymorpha*, a pair of synthetic oligonucleotides (5'-GAAGTGCAGCAGCAGCTCCTGAACC-3'; SEQ ID NO: 3, 5'-

GGCTGATGACGGCTCGGTCACGATGG-3'; SEQ ID NO: 4) were prepared, on the basis of information on *H. polymorpha* random sequenced tags described in Blandin et al., (FEBS Lett. 487, 76, (2000). By PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) using the prepared oligonucleotides as primers, a 0.88 kb DNA segment was amplified from *H. polymorpha* DL-1L derived chromosome. Then, Southern blotting was conducted using the amplified DNA segment as a probe. Based on the result of the Southern blot, 3.5 kb HindIII DNA segments was extracted from *H. polymorpha* chromosomal DNA to prepare a genome library, which was transformed into *E. coli*. A DNA segment reactive with the DNA probe was isolated by colony PCR and subjected to DNA sequencing to identify a DNA segment comprising ORF (Open Reading Frame) with a size of1728 bp showing a high similarity with the *Saccharomyces S. cerevisiae YPSI* gene (Fig. 1). The *H. polymorpha YPSI* gene (*HpYPSI*) product has a signal sequence of 1-17 amino acids at its N-end and a region of 556-575 amino acids, presumed as a domain which can be anchored on the membrane of Golgi apparatus, as reported on *S. cerevisiae* yapsin1.

Also, it has structural features, by which a glycosylphosphatidylinositol anchor can be attached thereto, as in *S.cerevisiae* yapsins (Fig. 1). *H. polymorpha* yapsin1 (SEQ ID NO: 2) shows a homology of 36% and a high similarity of 52% with *S. cerevisiae* yapsin1 and a homology of 30% or more with other yapsin proteases (Fig. 2, Table 1).

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Table 1

Homology and similarity of *HpYPS1* and *ScYPS* genes

	ScYPS1	ScYPS2	ScYPS3	ScYPS6	ScYPS7
HpYPS1	36%(52%)	31%(49%)	30%(44%)	26%(44%)	29%(34%)

^{*} Parenthesized number is similarity

5 <Example 2>

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Functional analysis of the Hansenula polymorpha HpYPS1 gene

In case of the traditional yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae, it has been reported that YPSI/YPS2 double deficient mutant strain derived from S. cerevisiae W303 strain as a parental strain shows a such high temperature sensitivity that it cannot grow at 37°C (Komano and Fuller, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 7,92,10752-10756 (1995)). Also, SLH18(yps1 \(\triangle \lambda \)/yps2 \(\triangle \lambda \)/yps3 \(\triangle \righta \) strain (Korean Patent Registration No. 10-0386836), which is a yapsin multiple deficient mutant strain having three genes of YPSI/YPS2/YPS3 destroyed, prepared using Saccharomyces cerevisiae L3262 as a parental strain by the present inventors, was found to show temperature sensitivity at a high temperature. As a method for functional analysis of the Hansenula polymorpha yapsin1 gene HpYPS1, a functional complementation experiment was conducted by transforming the HpYPS1 gene into the above-described Saccharomyces cerevisiae multiple yapsin mutant strain according to the lithium chloride-DMSO method (Hill et al., Nucleic Acid Res., 19, 5791 (1991)) to examine whether the expression of Hansenula polymorpha yapsin1 gene could restore temperature sensitivities of the Saccharomyces cerevisiae multiple yapsin mutant

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strains. In order to express the *HpYPS1* gene in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, 3.2 kb DNA segment including the *HpYPS1* gene was inserted into the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* multicopy vector YEp352 (Hill et al., Yeast 2, 163, (1986)) to generate YEp-*HpYPS1*.

As shown in Fig. 3, the Saccharomyces cerevisiae yapsin multiple deficient mutant strains transformed with the YEp352-HpYPS1 vector containing the HpYPS1 gene showed the same growth with the wild type strain at 37°C, while the yapsin multiple deficient mutant strain transformed with only YEp352 vector, used as control, did not grow at 37°C. From these results, it was proved that the temperature sensitivity due to the multiple deletion of Saccharomyces cerevisiae yapsin genes can be overcome by the expression of the Hansenula polymorpha yapsin 1 gene. Thus, there was provided a basis supporting that the H. polymorpha gene HpYPS1 cloned according to the present invention is a functional homologue of yapsin gene of S. cerevisiae.

<Example 3>

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Preparation of the HpYPS1 gene-deficient strain and analysis of yapsin activity

Using the *HpYPS1* gene prepared above, a *H. polymorpha* yapsin deficient mutant strain *hpyps1* was synthesized and assayed for change in its protein decomposition activity by yapsin. In order to prepare a mutant strain having the deletion of the *HpYPS1* gene encoding *Hansenula polymorpha* yapsin 1, a fusion PCR (Oldenhurg et al., Nucleic Acid Res. 25, 451, (1997)) was conducted on *H. polymorpha* chromosomal DNA using primers described in Table 2. The resulting DNA segment was transformed

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into Hansenula polymorpha DL1-LdU (leu2 \(\triangle \) ura3::lacz; Kang et al., In Hansenula polymorpha:Biology and Application (Ed. G. Gellissen), pp 124 (2002)) strain to induce in vivo homologous recombination, thereby attempting deletion of the gene. More specifically, a primary PCR was firstly conducted to obtain the N-ends, C-ends of HpYPSI gene and URA3 gene. Then, a secondary fusion PCR was conducted to fuse the N-end and C-end of HpYPSI gene with the N-end and C-end of URA3 gene, respectively. The two DNA segments thus obtained were introduced to yeast cells.

Using URA3 as a selection marker, viable transformants were selected in a minimal medium lacking uracil. Construction of the $hpyps1 \triangle$ strain ($leu2 \triangle ura3::lacz$ yps1:: URA3), which is a H. polymorpha mutant strain having the deleted HpYPS1 gene, was confirmed by PCR, which generated the DNA segments with different sizes between the wild type strain and the mutant strain. (Fig. 4).

For the comparison of the yapsin activity of H. polymorpha hpyps $1 \triangle$ mutant strain prepared above with that of the wild type strain, each of the two strains was cultured for 10 hours in YPD medium (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 2% glucose) using human parathyroid hormone (hPTH) as a substrate. The resulting yeast culture supernatant was analyzed for its protein degradation activity. 20 $\mu\ell$ of the yeast culture supernatant which had been diluted 1/4 was mixed with hPTH (about 1.6 μ g) acting as a substrate. The reaction was incubated for 2 hours, 4 hours and 6 hours at 37 °C. Each product was loaded on SDS-polyacrylamide gel to analyze the degradation level of hPTH by the yapsin activity.

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As shown in Fig. 5, in the culture fluid of the wild type, it was already hard to observe hPTH remaining in the culture supernatant after 2 hour cultivation, while in the culture supernatant of $hpyps1 \triangle$ mutant strain, a substantial amount of hPTH was observed, though the amount was somewhat reduced as the reaction time became longer.

This suggests that the culture supernatant of $hpyps1 \triangle$, the Hansenula polymorpha HpYPS1 deficient mutant strain, had a significantly reduced hPTH degradation activity, as compared to the culture supernatant of the wild type strain. Such result shows the same result with the previous study performed on S. cerevisiae YPS1 deficient mutant strain (Kang et al., Appl Microbiol Biotechnol. 50, 187, (1998)) and thus, supports the fact that HpYPS1 is a gene encoding yapsin protease of H. polymorpha and the HpYPS1 deficient mutant strain developed according to the present invention has the yapsin activity reduced.

Table 2

Primers used in fusion PCR for destruction of *HpYPS1* gene

Primer	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
YPS(NF)	5'-GGACACGCAAGAGGTGTCTG- 3'	5
YPS(NR+rp)	5'- AGCTCGCTACCCGGGGATCCGCAACTTTCATTGT GTCAAC-3'	6
YPS(CF+rp)	5'- GCACATCCCCCTTTCGCCAGCCTCTTCGGTGCGG TTGACC- 3'	7
YPS(CR)	5'-GCTCGGCTCCAGGATTCAGG- 3'	8
<i>URA3</i> N-S	5'-GGATCCCCGGGTACCGAGCT- 3'	9



URA3 N-A	5'-CACCGGTAGCTAATGATCCC- 3'	10
URA3 C-S	5'-CGAACATCCAAGTGGGCCGA- 3'	11
URA3 C-A	5'-CTGGCGAAAGGGGGATGTGC- 3'	12

<Example 4>

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Construction of the recombinant *H. polymorpha* strain expressing hPTH and analysis of the hPTH expression

In order to practically express and secret human parathyroid hormone (hPTH) in *H. polymorpha*, pMOXhPTH, a human parathyroid hormone expression vector for *H. polymorpha* was prepared according to a method shown in Fig. 6. Thus, the 0.53 kb EcoR I /Sal I segment containing the hPTH cDNA fused with a MF α signal sequence was prepared from pG10-hPTH, a hPTH expression vector for *S. cerevisiae* (Chung et al., Biotechnol Bioeng. 57, 245, (1998)) and the 7.8 kb Xba I /EcoR I segment having the albumin cDNA removed was prepared from pYHSA12, a human serum albumin expression vector for *H. polymorpha* (Kang et al., Biotechnol Bioeng. 76, 175, (2001)).

The two DNA segments were joined to generate pMOXhPTH. The resulting vector pMOXhPTH was introduced into the *H. polymorpha hpyps1* △ mutant strain and the wild type strain, and viable transformants were selected in minimal medium lacking leucine. At every 24 hours after inoculation, Leu⁺ transformants were transferred to liquid minimal selective medium lacking leucine 5 times to stabilize the Leu⁺ transformants (Sohn et al., Appl Microbiol Biotechnol. 51, 800, (1999)). The culture broth of the Leu⁺ transformants obtained as described above was plated onto minimal

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media containing G418 at various concentrations and cultured at 37°C. DNA was isolated from each of the resulting colonies and subjected to Southern blot analysis using the 1.5 kb *H. polymorpha LEU2* gene as a hybridization prove according to the method described by Sambrook et al. (Molecular cloning Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989) to confirm insertion into the chromosome of the expression vector (Fig. 7A). The *H. polymorpha LEU2* gene used as a probe was prepared by labeling with digoxigenin using the non-radioactive DNA labeling and detection kit. As having been expected, in the transformants selected on the medium containing a high G418 concentration, multiple integration of the vector pMOXhPTH was observed. Upon comparison of intensity between the *LEU2* gene signal on the chromosome and the *LEU2* gene signal on the inserted vector, it was presumed that about 5 to 6 copies at most had been inserted.

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Some tranformants (a, b, c, d, e and f) of the recombinant yeast strains which had been confirmed to have the hPTH expression vector integrated into the chromosome were inoculated into YPM medium (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 2% methanol) and cultured at 37°C. Yeast culture supernatants obtained at 12 hours and 24 hours after initiation of the cultivation were treated with TCA (trichloroacetic acid). The proteins secreted out of the cells were concentrated to 1/20 of the initial volume and electrophoresed on 15% SDS-polyacrylamide gel, followed by staining with Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250 (Fig. 7B).

When the hPTH secreted in *polymorpha* wild type was compared with that secreted in the *hpyps1*△ mutant strain, only a trace of decomposition product (d1) was

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observed in the culture supernatant obtained from the wild type and hPTH of a whole size (i) was hardly observed, since most of hPTH was decomposed. On the other hand, secretion of hPTH of a whole size was clearly observed in the culture supernatant obtained from the $hpyps1 \triangle$ mutant strain at 12 hours after cultivation. From these results, it was shown that the $hpyps1 \triangle$ mutant strain having the yapsin1 gene destroyed is a more useful strain as a host for secretory expression of recombinant hPTH, as compared to the wild type, since the decomposition of the recombinant parathyroid hormone is considerably inhibited by the reduction of yapsin activity, although hPTH of a whole size was reduced in the $hpyps1 \triangle$ mutant strain while the band (d2), it is presumed, of hPTH having the C-end decomposed was observed, as the cultivation time became longer.

<Example 5>

Analysis of expression and secretion of recombinant human serum albumin in H.

polymorpha HpYPSI gene deficient mutant strain

The human serum albumin (HSA) expressed in *S. cerevisiae* is secreted as an intact form of 67 kDa, however some recombinant HSA in a decomposed form of 45 kDa also have been observed. It was reported that degradation of HSA secreted to yeast cell culture supernatant, particularly production of a decomposition product with a size of 45 kDa was reduced when a *S. cerevisiae* strain with the yapsin1 gene destroyed was used as a host (Kerry Williams et al., Yeast 14, 161, (1998)). In order to analyze the expression

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and degradation aspects of recombinant HSA in the H. polymorpha HpYPS1 gene deficient mutant strain developed according to the present invention, the hpyps1 \(\triangle \) mutant strain was transformed with an expression vector pYHSA12 (Kang et al., Biotech Bioeng. 76, 175, (2001)), in which the MOX promoter and the HSA cDNA were joined to a vector for copy-number controlled gene integration using the LEU2 gene and G418 resistance gene as selective markers. Recombinant H. polymorpha wild type strain and hpyps1 △ mutant strain were cultured in YPGM medium (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 1% glycerol, 2% methanol). Each of the culture supernatants thus-obtained was loaded on SDS-polyacrylamide gel, followed by staining with silver nitrate, or transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane, followed by Western blot by HSA antibody to examine expression and degradation aspects of HSA. As shown in Fig. 8, it was observed that more HSA was secreted in the hpyps 1 \triangle mutant strain than the wild type strain, particularly after cultivation for 24 hours. Though the overall degradation of albumin was not significantly inhibited, it was shown that degradation product with a size of 45 kDa was apparently reduced in the hpyps1 △ mutant strain, as compared to the wild type, as observed particularly in S. cerevisiae. Considering cultivation in a high concentration fermenter, production of 45 kDa degraded HSA product presents more serious problems, it is expected that an albumin production system using the hpyps1 \triangle mutant strain as a host can increase production of albumin due to a remarkable reduction in degradation of albumin, as compared to an production system using the wild type strain as a host.



<Example 6>

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Analysis of expression and secretion of recombinant albumin fusion TIMP2 (HSA-TIMP2) in *H. polymorpha HpYPS1* gene deficient mutant strain

As a part of a method to increase blood persistence of a protein therapeutic agent, researches to develop a technology to increase in vivo half-life of a medical protein by expressing a recombinant protein in a form fused to albumin, a blood protein which has a long stability, are in the spotlight (Smith et al., Bioconjugate Chem. 12, 750-756, (2001); Sheffield et al. Blood Coagul Fibrinol. 12, 433-443, (2001)). The present inventors also have developed a recombinant TIMP-2 having in vivo stability significantly increased by expressing TIMP-2, which attracts public attention as a next generation anti-angiogenesis agent and anti-tumor agent, as a recombinant protein fused to albumin in S. cerevisiae (Korea Patent Registration No. 10-2001-0027823, International Application No. PCT/KR03/00015). In order to analyze the expression and e decomposition aspect of the recombinant HSA-TIMP2 in a form fused to albumin in the H. polymorpha HpYPS1 gene deficient mutant strain (hpyps $l\triangle$) developed according to the present invention, YHSA13-T2, a HSA-TIMP2 expression vector for H. polymorpha was prepared according to the method shown in Fig. 9. That is, the DNA fragments encoding HSA and TIMP2 were prepared using the PCR primers described in Table 3. Fusion PCR was conducted using the prepared genes in a ratio of 1:1 to prepare the 2.4 kb HSA-TIMP2 DNA segment comprising HSA (1.8 kb) and TIMP2 (0.586 kb), which are connected to each other. The resulting segment was cloned into pGEM T vector



(Promega, USA) to prepare pTHSA-TIMP2. The sequence of the HSA-TIMP2 DNA segment was confirmed by sequencing analysis. Then, pTHSA-TIMP2 was cut with XbaI and SpeI. The resulting XbaI/SpeI HSA-TIMP2 gene segment of 1.2 kb was joined to the XbaI-digested pYHSA12(+), a H. polymorpha multiple tandem introduction vector having albumin gene inserted (Kang et al., Biotechnol. Bioeng. 76, 175-185, (2001)), to prepare pYHSA13-T2 (Fig. 9).

Table 3

PCR primers used in preparation of HSA-TIMP2 fusion gene

primer	Sequence	Note
HSA EcoR F	5' gaattcatgaagtgggtaaccttt 3' (SEQ ID NO: 13)	HSA forward direction
Hs-R2	5' taagcctaaggcagcttgac 3' (SEQ ID NO: 14)	HSA reverse direction
H-T2-F	5'caagetgeettaggettatgeagetgeteeeeggtg 3' (SEQ ID NO: 15)	Timp2 forward direction, used with 18 bp at HSA C-end in fusion PCR
R-T2-Sp	5' actagtgatttatgggtcctcgatg 3' (SEQ ID NO: 16)	Timp2 reverse direction

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The albumin fusion protein expression vector prepared above was introduced into H. polymorpha DL1-L (leu2) and the $hpyps1 \triangle$ (leu2 hpyps1::URA3) mutant strain to prepare Leu⁺ transformants. The collected transformants were passage-cultured five times on selective medium so that the expression vectors could be multiply integrated to the host chromosomal DNA. Then, the transformants were plated at a density of 1×10^5 to 10^6 per plate in media containing antibiotic G418 at various concentrations to select

transformants having resistance to G418. In order to examine whether the transformants, which had been confirmed to have the expression vector pYHSA13-T2 integrated into the host chromosome by Western blotting, secrets and expresses the fusion protein with an expected size, the yeast culture supernatants obtained by culturing the transformants for 48 hours in YPM was analyzed by Western blotting using antibody to albumin. As shown in Fig. 10, it was observed that the fusion protein HSA-TIMP2 (88 kDa) having an increased size as compared to HSA (66.5 kDa) was secreted as expected. Interestingly, in case of the yapsin deficient mutant strain hpyps1 \(\triangle \), only 88 kDa HSA-TIMP2 with a whole size was observed without any decomposition product. However, in the wild type DL1 strain, a band being presumed as a decomposition product was observed just under the band of HSA-TIMP2 with a size of 88 kDa. Therefore, due to the reduction of decomposition products, the expressed amount of HSA-Timp2 fusion protein was about two times higher in the hpyps1 \triangle mutant strain than the wild type strain. This suggests that protein degradation by yapsin1 is inhibited in secretion of recombinant proteins expressed as an albumin-fusion form as well as secretion of the above-described recombinant albumin in the hpyps1 △ mutant strain

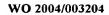
Industrial Applicability

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The present invention can be usefully used in bioengineering industry to produce a recombinant protein using *H. polymorpha* since cleavage of the recombinant protein by





yapsin activity can be remarkably reduced by using H. polymorpha strain (hpyps1 \triangle) with the protease yapsin1 gene being deficient as a recombinant protein-producing host, thereby secreting and producing the recombinant protein in an intact configuration at a high yield.



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What Is Claimed Is:

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- 1. A nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence shown in Fig. 1.
- 5 2. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, which is the *HpYPS1* gene encoding *Hansenula polymorpha* yapsin1 (Accession No. KCTC 10285BP).
 - 3. A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in Fig.1.
- 4. The polypeptide according to claim 3, which is *Hansenula polymorpha* yapsin1 which can cleave a protein comprising a basic or dibasic amino acid residue.
 - 5. The polypeptide according to claim 3, which is a secretion signal peptide of HpYPS1 polypeptide used as a secretion signal of a foreign protein.
 - 6. A Hansenula polymorpha mutant strain having yapsin activity reduced by mutation of HpYPS1 gene encoding Hansenula polymorpha yapsin1.
- The Hansenula polymorpha mutant strain according to claim 6 deposited under
 Accession No. KCTC 10281BP.

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- 8. A recombinant *Hansenula polymorpha* strain expressing a foreign protein which is prepared by introducing a gene encoding the foreign protein to the *Hansenula polymorpha* mutant strain according to claim 6.
- The recombinant Hansenula polymorpha strain according to claim 8, which is hpyps1 Δ-pMOXhPTH (KCTC 10282BP).
 - 10. The recombinant *Hansenula polymorpha* strain according to claim 8, which is $hpyps1 \Delta$ -pYHSA12 (KCTC 10283BP).

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- 11. The recombinant *Hansenula polymorpha* strain according to claim 8, which is hpyps1 Δ-pYHSA13-TIMP2 (KCTC 10485BP).
- 12. A process for preparing and isolating a foreign protein comprising expressing the foreign protein using the *Hansenula polymorpha* yapsin1 deficient strain according to any one of claims 8 to 11 as a host.
 - 13. The process according to claim 12, in which the foreign protein is a recombinant protein containing a basic or dibasic amino acid residue which can be cleaved by yapsin1.

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14. The process according to claim 13, in which the protein containing a basic or dibasic



amino acid residue comprises human parathyroid hormone, human serum albumin and albumin fusion protein.



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FIG. 1

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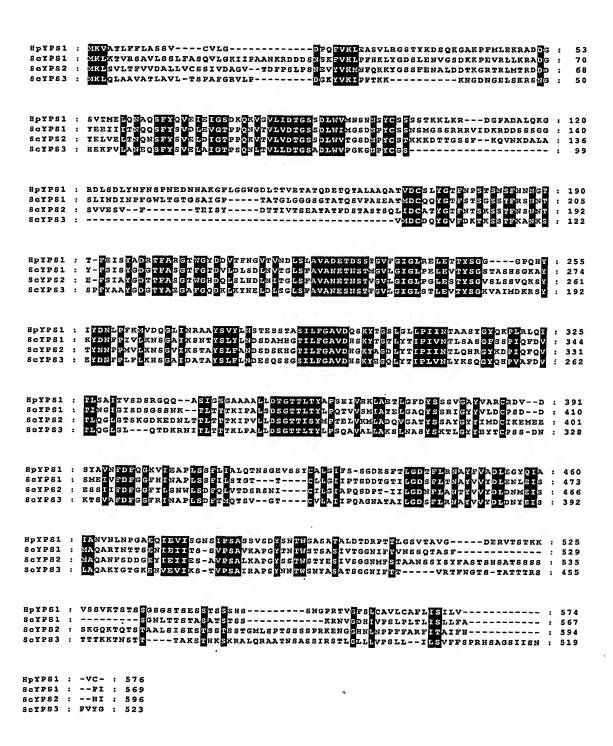
PCT/KR2003/001279

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10/518377

FIG. 2

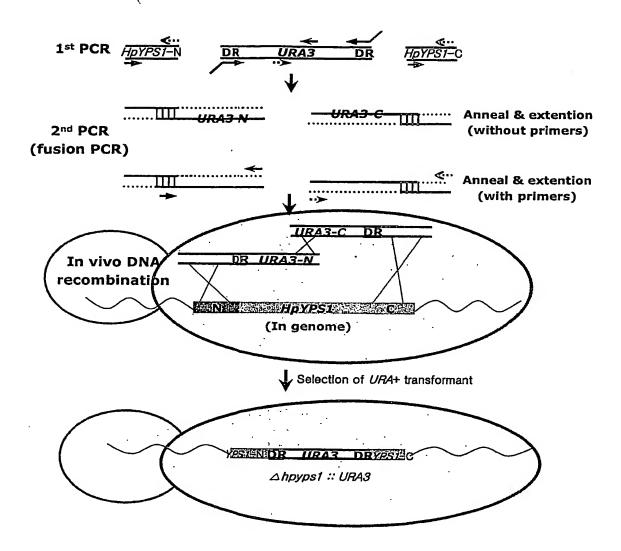




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10/518377

FIG. 3



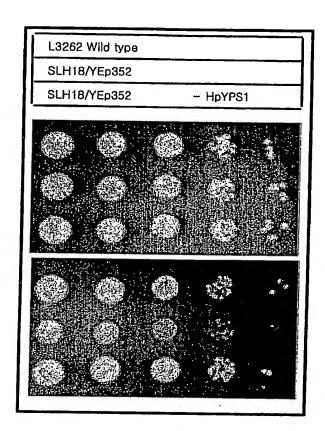
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FIG. 4



30 ℃ ,48 hr

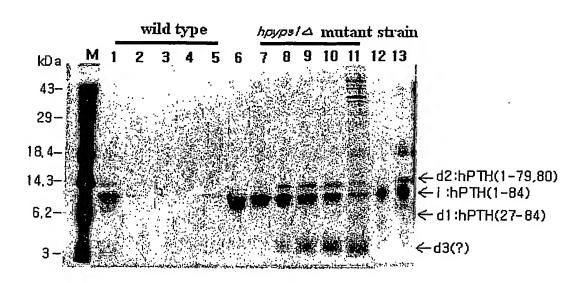
37 ℃ ,48 hr



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FIG. 5



Lane M: Molecular marker

1: wild type, o-h reaction

2: wild type, 2-h reaction

3: wild type, 4-h reaction

4: wild type, 6-h reaction

5: wild type, 24-h reaction

6: distilled water + hPTH, o-h reaction

7: mutant strain, o-h reaction

8: mutant strain, 2-h reaction

9: mutant strain, 4-h reaction

10: mutant strain, 6-h reaction

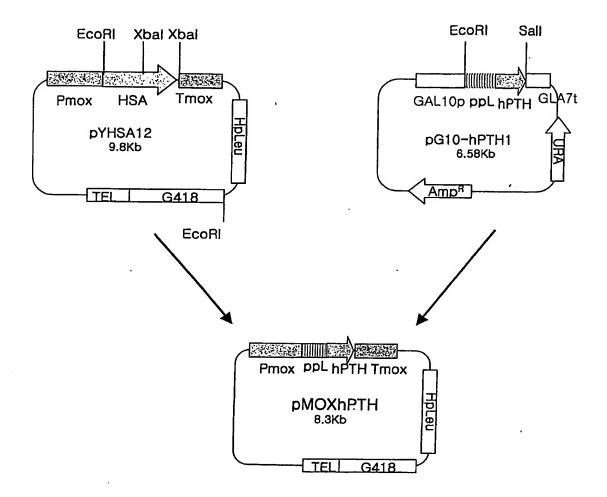
11: mutant strain, 24-h reaction

12: hPTH 100 ng

13: hPTH 200 ng



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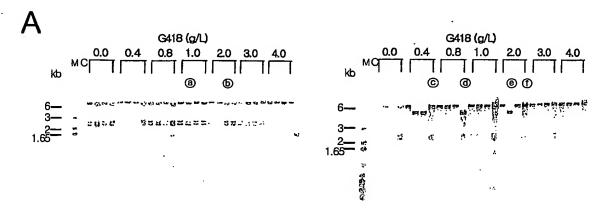
WO 2004/003204,



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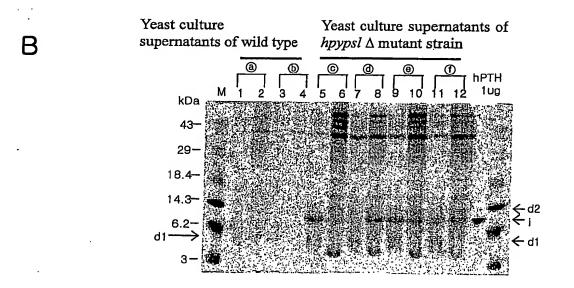
10/518377

FIG. 7



Transformants of wild type

Transformants of hpypsl Δ mutant strain

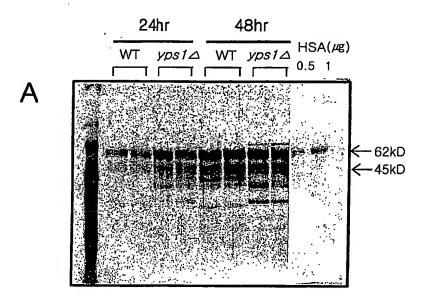


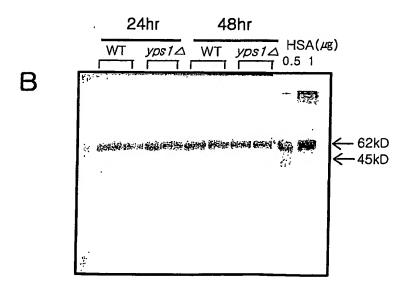
Lane 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11: 12hr after initiation of the cultivation Lane 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12: 24hr after initiation of the cultivation

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FIG. 8





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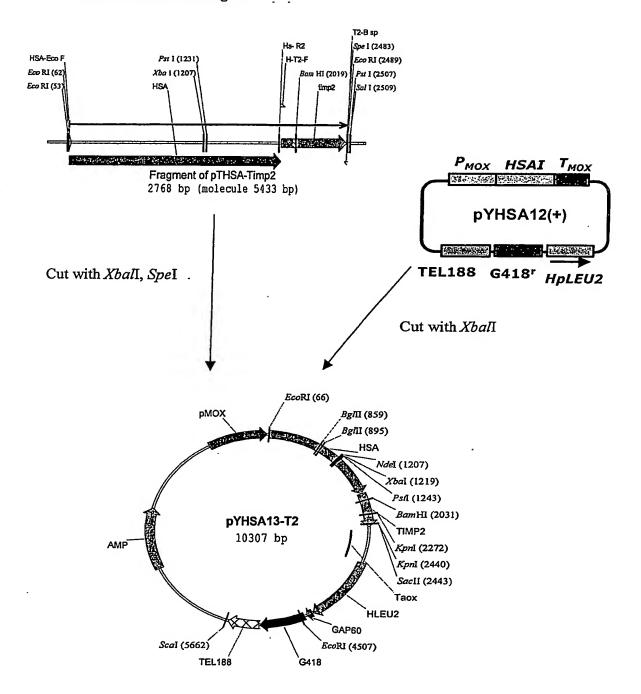
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FIG. 9

HSA-TIMP2 fusion gene



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FIG. 10

			W	T		h	ру	ps	12	2	
kDa 100 -	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
75 -					Server .		Gra p	€ex.⊅	aži d		
50 -										The second	

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	LeadBio, Inc
	Bio Holdings CO., LTD
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	(2629) (2631)
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				gtt ctt cgg		996
Sly Asp Pro		l Lys Leu (Val Leu Arg	Gly Ser	
	20		25	30		

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Thr	Tyr	Lys	qeA	Ser	Gln	Lys	Gly	Ala	Lys	Pro	Phe	Met	Leu	Glu	Lys	•	
		35		•			40					45					
agg	gct	gat	gac	ggc	tcg	gtc	acg	atg	gaa	ttg	cag	aac	gcc	cag	tct	1092	ļ
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ASII	ser	TYL	_	ser	Ser	ser	ser		гуз	гуа	Leu	råa	_	Asp	GIA		
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Trp	Gļy	Asp	Leu	Thr	Thr	Val	Glu	Thr	Ala	Thr	Gln	Asp	Glu	Thr	Gln		
145					150					155					160		
acg	gct	ctc	gct	gcg	cag	gcc	acc	gtg	gac	tgc	tcg	cta	tac	gga	acg	1428	
Thr	Ala	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gln	Ala	Thr	Val	qsA	Cys	Ser	Leu	Tyr	Gly	Thr		
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ttc	aat	cct	tca	acg	tcc	aat	tcg	ttc	cac	aac	aac	ggc	acc	aca	ctt	1476	
Phe	Asn	Pro	Ser	Thr	Ser	Asn	Ser	Phe	His	Asn	Asn	Gly	Thr	Thr	Phe		
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Glu	Ile	Sei	туз	: Ala	a Ası	Arg	Thi	Phe	Ala	Arg	g Gly	y Th	r Tr	p Gl	у Туз	r
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Asp	Asp	Val	Thr	Phe	: Asr	Gly	Val	Thr	Val	. Ası	a Asp	Le	u Se	r Le	u Ala	ı
	210					215					220)				
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Ala	Glu	Tha	Leu	Gly	Phe	Asp	Тух	Ser	Sex	Ser	· Val	Gl	y Ala	Ту	r Val	•	
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tcgac	acto	aco	aaoc	acta	ct=	caac	cta	atas	caas							_0.	
			~~5				9	3-30	~390	[_ccac	.yagt	a cç	gatg	ggga	3100	
tcctc	atta	e ac	+++	ccac	ars	ctac	220	~~~	300-								
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Asn	Ser	Tyr	Cys	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ser	Thr	Lys	L ys	Leu	Lys	Arg	Asp	Gly
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Trp	Gly	Asp	Leu	Thr	Thr	Val	Glu	Thr	Ala	Thr	Gln	Asp	Glu	Thr	Gln
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Thr	Ala	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gln	Ala	Thr	Val	Asn	Cvs	Ser	Len	Т ът-	Glv	Thr
				165					170	- 72	502	Deu	-7-	175	
Dha	700	Dwa	Co	m	C	2	Co	Dh -	**! _				_,		
	ASII	FIG	180	IIIE	Ser	ASII	Ser	185	HIS	ASII	Asn	GŢĀ	190	Thr	Pne
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Asi	21:		i Th	r Pne	e Asn	215		l Thr	· Va.	l As:	n As <u>r</u> 220		u Se	r Le	u Ala
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Arg	g Glu	ı Leı	ı Glı	1 Thr 245		тут	Ser	Gly	Gly		y Pro	Gli	n His	255	
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Ser Gly Asp Glu Ser Phe Thr Leu Gly Asp Thr Phe Leu Arg Asn Ala 435 440 445

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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7 C12N 15/31

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7 C12N 15/31

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the intertnational search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Blast, PubMed, Delphion "Hansenula", "aspartic protease", "yapsin"

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
х	WO 98/01535 A1 (Novo Nordisk A/S) 15 January 1998	1-14
Α	OLSEN, V. ET AL.: "Identification and Characterization of Saccharomyces cerevisiae Yapsin 3, a New Member of the Yapsin Family of Aspartic Proteases Encoded by the YPS3 Gene", Biochem. J., 1999, Vol.339, pages 407-411 (Biochemical Society) cited in the application	1-14
A ·	KANG, H. A. ET AL.: "Efficient Production of Intact Human Parathyroid Hormone in a Saccharomyces cerevisiae Mutant Deficient in Yeast Aspartic Protease 3 (YAP3)" Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol. 1998, Vol.50, pages 187-192 (Springer-Verlag) cited in the application	1-14

* "A"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	nt defining the general state of the art which is not considered date and not in conflict with the application but cited to un				
"E"	er application or patent but published on or after the international g date	"X"	• • •			
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is		step when the document is taken alone			
	cited to establish the publication date of citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is			
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art			
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	*&"	document member of the same patent family			
Date	Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report			
	03 SEPTEMBER 2003 (03.09.2003)		03 SEPTEMBER 2003 (03.09.2003)			
Nan	ne and mailing address of the ISA/KR	Aut	norized officer			
	Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Sco-gu, Dacjeon 302-701.		KWON, Oh Sie			

Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140

X | See patent family annex.

Republic of Korea





Internal application No.
PCT/KR03/01279

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WO 98/01535 A1	15/01/1998	US6110703	29/08/2000
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		IL0127583A0	28/10/1999
		ES2187782T3	16/06/2003
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•		DK0909312T3	17/03/2003
		DE69717629C0	16/01/2003
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	•	CA2258307AA	15/01/1998
		AU3255497A1	02/02/1998
		AT0229068E	15/12/2002